news

TOWN PLANNING INSTITUTE OF CANADA

Vol. 1, No. 6 SEPTEMBER, 1956

PROFESSIONAL REGISTRATION

The following notes on professional registration summarize the main arguments included in a preliminary report prepared in April 1956 by the American Institute of Planners' Committee on Professional Registration.

For Registration:

1. It would protect the public by assuring that those who practice planning are qualified to do so.

2. It would also protect the public and the reputation of the profession by removing from practice those found guilty of misconduct and by gradually eliminating the professionally unqualified.

3. It would raise the prestige of the profession in the eyes of other professions.

4. It would enable the profession to speak with greater authority in advancing public planning objectives.

5. It would improve the financial position of members.

6. It might be helpful in securing public funds and private grants to advance planning education and research projects.

The A.I.P. Committee had not received evidence to indicate the merits of arguments 4, 5, and 6.

Against Registration:

1. It does not guarantee competence in planning. This is more an argument against establishing registration before examination procedures are available.

2. Initially, registration is bound to allow some incompetents into the profession but this is a temporary situation.

3. It would reduce the available supply of planners. There would be less incentive for persons with other basic qualifications to enter the profession because they may be unwilling to acquire the necessary years of experience before being registered.

4. It would tend to standardise education. This has not been apparent in other professions with registration.

5. It would increase salaries of professional planners and decrease those of trainees (those acquiring experience). This might discourage prospective students.

6. Planning overlaps other professions so that it is not possible to define planning separately from other registered professions.

7. Planners have such diversified backgrounds that it would be extremely difficult to establish standards of qualifications applying to all.

THE PRESIDENT IN VANCOUVER

A report received from Vancouver.

The planning fraternity in the Vancouver area enjoyed a surprise visit from the President A.P.C. Adamson on the 12th, of June. Professor Adamson took advantage of his attendance at the annual meeting of the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada at Banff to make a brief call on the West Coast.

During the afternoon he was taken by George F. Fountain, Deputy Director of Planning for the City of Vancouver and old time T.P.I.C. member of the 1920 - 30's, on a tour of the City, the University and the City's Planning Department.

In the evening, Professor Adamson was entertained at a private dinner at the Devonshire Hotel under the chairmanship of J. Alexander Walker. Council Member from British Columbia. After dinner a full discussion ensued with respect to the objectives of the T.P.I.C. and the British Columbia Professional Planners, a group of some thirty five persons. The general consensus of opinion was that the meeting was one of the most enjoyable, interesting and instructive yet held. Each learned at first hand the problems of the other group and obtained a thorough understanding of the difficulties of organisation.

Unfortunately some of the prominant planners were out of the City on Official business. Credit is due and the thanks of the meeting was tendered to Mr. Tom McDonald, Secretary, B.C. Division, Community Planning Association of Canada, who efficiently organised the dinner meeting.

URBAN ANIMATION

A brief extract from notes prepared by A.H. Armstrong on the Urban Design Conference, Harvard University, April 1956.

Mrs. Jane Jacobs (Associate Editor, Architectural Forum) warned against too mechanical a diagnosis of the city, or too hygenic a prescription. Social cohesion and correspondence depend on many ill-defined and almost imperceptible relationships: the chatty corner grocery owner is not replaceable by the supermarket. The former is tutor, confessor, journalist, political counsel as well as merchant. Too tidy an idea of the renewed city may sever these human links beyond repair. The rebuilt project may have geometry at the price of vitality, unless those responsible have some comprehension of what happens in the rear of old shops and make space for such things to go on, - "There is a wierd wisdom within the rubble we so glibly scrape away; take a good look at it before you begin to draw up your new world". It takes keen insight to know what makes the lively quarter so; block zoning, suppression of natural gathering places, over-development of open spaces, may all be enemies of liveliness.

THE SEAL OF THE INSTITUTE

The seal of the Institute here reproduced became the recognised emblem after receiving the commendation of the members in 1922. It was the work of Henri Hebert, a well known sculptor of Montreal, and of the first Vice-President of the Institute Noulan Couchon.

The design and symbolism is interesting and original. Around the margin are the lively bees and heads of wheat symbolic of activity and national production. Occupying a prominent place is a reproduction of Rodin's statue "The Thinker". The first Canadian builder, the beaver, is seen at work and the outline of a temple facade is intended to suggest certain extentions and improvements of his idea.

ANNUAL MEETING AND CONFERENCE, BANFF

Plans for the Annual Meeting and Conference at the School of Fine Arts Banff, on September 20th, and 21st are proceeding satisfactorily.

An enthusiastic response to the preliminary notice has been received and a good attendance is expected from across Canada.

The replies indicate that many planners will be accompanied by their wives. Mrs..... will be most welcome and has a special invitation to attend any of the sessions or activities.

Members who have not returned their Council Election Ballot are asked to slip it in the envelope today and mail it to the secretary.

BRIEFLY NOTED

A report entitled "A guide for Development, Uranium City and District" has been prepared by K. Izumi and G.R. Arnott in co-operation with the Community Planning Branch, Department of Municipal Affaris, Saskatchewan. The report rpresented to the Municipal Corporation of Uranium City and District, outlines a tentative General Development Plan to help this Municipality which had no residents in 1951 and has approximately 5,000 people today.

Another report on the development of Quebec City and its region has recently been completed by Jacques Greber and Edouard Fiset with the co-operation of Roland Bedard, Director of the Planning Service. This report now in the hands of the Municipality, is accompanied by Plans, diagrams and photographs and deals with current planning problems of the urban region. The report emphasizes a comprehensive programme for the protection of historic buildings.

The planning research group led by M.B.M. Lawson, City Planning Director, which was set up in Toronto to study Urban Renewal for the City has now presented its report to the Joint Advisory Committee representing Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation, the Ontario Department of Planning and Development, and the City of Toronto Planning Board. The report includes a general review of existing conditions in the City and puts forward proposals and principles to guide its development with particular attention being paid to the part which the various forms of urban renewal can play in City improvement.

The Metropolitan Planning Commission of Greater Winnipeg with the co-operation of member Municipalities, the Province of Manitoba, the Greater Winnipeg Transit Commission and the Downtown Business Association is embarking on a transportation study of the Greater Winnipeg area. The study will be under the general supervision of the Metropolitan Planning Commission and its Director.

Peter Rhodes who has recently completed the course in Town and Regional Planning at the University of Toronto has taken a planning appointment with Venchiarutti and Venchiarutti, Architects, Toronto.

Miss Rosalind Johnson has been appointed to the staff of the Metropolitan Planning Commission of Greater Winnipeg as an assistant planner.

The Annual General Meeting and Conference of the Community Planning Association of Canada will be held at the Chateau Laurier Hotel, Ottawa on the 29th, 30th, and 31st of October 1956.

RECENT C.M.H.C. PUBLICATIONS

These four publications of Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation are available from the Corporations head office in Ottawa.

1. PRINCIPLES OF SMALL HOUSE GROUPING

This well illustrated booklet will be a valuable asset to all those builders, architects and planners responsible for developing residential land but it will also be prized by those planners and other local officials who are expected to control development. The obvious incompatibility between the average house and its neighbours in the new subdivision and the complete lack of design for the street, depreciates the living qualities of new housing sites. If this publication were widely read and accepted it could do a great deal to remedy haphazard, unrelated building.

2. HOUSING AND URBAN GROWTH IN CANADA

This is the text of the brief presented by Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation to the Royal Commission on Canada's Economic Prospects. The scope and interest of the document will be apparent from the following list of section headings:

Introduction
Government Participation in Housing
The Stock of Housing
The Housebuilding Industry
Investment in Housing
Diversity in Housing
Housing and Community Development
Urban redevelopment
Conclusion

3. CHOOSING A HOUSE DESIGN

A guide for the prospective house builder which shows what to, and what not to look for in the new house.

4. CANADIAN HOUSING STATISTICS June 1956

Is a quarterly report providing information on the housing situation, particularly new housebuilding and mortgage lending activity.

POSITIONS VACANT

NORTH YORK PLANNING BOARD, ONTARIO

Planning Assistant - Subdivisions. $71 to $84 per week depending on qualifications.
Duties: Analyse submitted draft plans of subdivision, redesign where necessary, prepare staff reports for Planning Board, conduct area studies in partly developed areas of Municipality, prepare neighbourhood plans and community development plans.
Qualifications: Degree in planning or related fields with practical experience or considerable design experience.
Apply: Wm. F. H. McAdams, Planning Director, North York Planning Board, 5000 Yonge Street, Willowdale, Ontario.

DEPARTMENT OF MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS AND SUPPLY, PROVINCE OF NEWFOUNDLAND

Town Planning Assistant. $4,900 to $5,300 annual increments $100, commencing salary may be within the scale.
Duties: Preparation of Municipal Plans for communities throughout the Province.
Qualifications: Professional qualifications in Town Planning plus considerable post graduate experience, preferably in County or Municipal Planning.
Apply: Giving details of age, experience, present salary and qualifications, together with recent testimonials or references to: Deputy Minister of Municipal Affairs, St. John's, Newfoundland.

TOWNSHIP OF RICHMOND, GREATER VANCOUVER

Town Planner: $500 to $550 per month depending on qualifications and experience. Benefits include medical services, group insurance, and superannuation.
Duties: Assist in planning for land and building development in the rapidly growing municipality, advise on Municipal development policy, organize and supervise preparation of plan for future growth of Municipality.
Apply: With details of qualifications, and experience, present salary, when available, and names and addresses of two referees. Applications marked on envelope "Application for position of Town Planner" will be received up to 5:00 P.M. September 21st, 1956 by T.M. Youngberg, Richmond Municipal Office, 691 No. 3 Road, Richmond, Vancouver, B.C.

RED DEER DISTRICT PLANNING COMMISSION

Assistant Planner: $3,600 to $4,800 dependant on qualifications and experience.
Qualifications: Experience in subdivision design, zoning control and general planning studies.
Apply: with full particulars to The Director, Red Deer District Planning Commission, City Hall, Red Deer, Alberta.

METROPOLITAN PLANNING COMMISSION OF GREATER WINNIPEG

Associate Planner: $5,400 to $6,600 per annum.
Duties: To assume responsibility under general direction for the preparation of comprehensive plans for smaller municipalities and to advise local authorities on planning problems.
Qualifications: Degree in planning,preferable . Bachelor's degree in Engineering or other discipline required plus minimum of three years experience in planning.
Apply: to Director, Metropolitan Planning Commission, 301-334 Portage Avenue, Winnipeg 1, Manitoba.

TOWN PLANNING INSTITUTE OF CANADA

President — A.P.C. ADAMSON
School of Architecture,
University of Toronto,
Toronto, Ontario.

Secretary — HUGH T. LEMON
King Edward Hotel,
Toronto 1, Ontario.

Material for publication in the NEWS should be forwarded to:

A.H. Roberts,
10 Rosehill Avenue,
Toronto, Ontario.